

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Sam Farr today was presented with the Senator David Pryor Special Achievement Award for his ongoing advocacy for communities with military bases. The award was bestowed by the Association of Defense Communities at their annual conference in Miami.

"Communities with active or closed military bases face many special concerns, from land use to economic development to ordinance disposal," said **Rep. Farr (D-Carmel)**. "I have been lucky enough to assist in the transition efforts at Fort Ord, and that experience has helped me push those issues locally and nationwide."

**Paul Kalomiris, executive director of the Association of Defense Communities**, said the award is given to an individual who advocates for communities with active or closed military bases.

"On the closure side, he's been an amazing supporter for base closure activities, making sure money is there for implementation for BRAC and associated cleanup," said Kalomiris. "For active bases, he's pushed legislation for cooperative service agreements."

**Fred Meurer, Monterey city manager** and outgoing president of the Association for Defense Communities, lauded Rep. Farr for his work.

"He was given this award, which is very rarely given, by the board because of his years of passionate service in support of defense communities, not only within his district but defense communities in general."

Meurer also praised Rep. Farr for his inclusive approach.

"Communities are the ones who support bases when they're open and communities will be there long after the bases are closed," Meurer said. "Therefore the communities'

needs should drive the disposal and reuse process.&quot;

This year, Rep. Farr successfully fought to increase clean-up funds from \$221 million to \$271 million for military bases closed prior to 2005, a portion of which will be used to underwrite clean-up activities at the former Fort Ord. Rep. Farr's position as vice-chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction contributes to his success in securing funds for military communities.

This is the fifth year the award has been presented since its creation in 1995. The group's board of directors gives the award to an individual they believe has made &quot;a significant and positive impact on defense communities nationwide.&quot;

The ADC's four-day conference brings together 800 participants from local, county and state governments, federal agencies and the private sector. The work covers issues of concern for communities with active, closing or closed military bases.

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